

BOMBAY**Water War**

The well-known weekly, *Blitz*, has published the text of an interview that UAR President Nasser had granted its editor. Nasser stated: "I see absolutely no escape from a second Palestine war. Our people have been living in Palestine for the past 7,000 years. The Israelis' plans to divert the Jordan waters were part of their expansion. This was why the Arabs were preparing to forestall them by every means and were working on a counter-

Abroad

plan. This will make them desperate and, knowing them as I do, I expect an attack from them on Jordan, Syria and Lebanon." Nasser further declared that if Western nations attempted sanctions against the Arabs, "we can cut off supplies from hostile nations, nationalize their refineries and installations and even take over the oil wells." Among additional Arab counter-actions, he mentioned cutting off Europe from Africa by denying fly-over rights, and closing the Suez Canal, which "is ours to keep open or closed down when the issue becomes one of survival or extinction for the Arab nation."

PRAGUE**Getting Out in the World**

In the past few years Czechoslovakia has led the satellite nations in expanding commercial and technological relations with the Third World. Regular routes of the Czech airline extend to Burma, Indonesia, India, Havana, Cairo, Rabat, Baghdad and many large cities of sub-Saharan Africa. Czechoslovakia has more technicians abroad even than Poland, which has three times her population. There are said to be 2,000 in Cuba alone, and a great many also in Guinea. Prague has lately been putting on big displays at nearly every international fair or exhibit in Asia and Africa, and giving a lavish welcome to important visitors from Third World countries.

LONDON**Post-Diem Hangover**

The Washington correspondent of the *Times*, Europe's most authoritative newspaper, reflected in a recent dispatch as follows: "The fact of the matter is that last year's coup d'état, which the United States encouraged, and the subsequent assassination of the president of South Vietnam, for which it cannot entirely escape some responsibility, appears not to have improved the basic situation. Those now in control in Saigon are even less disposed to give active leadership, and photographs recently published here indicate that they are more oppressive than the previous regime. Some officials believe that the situation was misread and it does not help much to admit that in this instance the Central Intelligence Agency understood the situation better than the diplomats. The Buddhist agitation which was received here as evidence of popular discontent is now seen as an ec-

clesiastical attempt to seize power. . . . This has led to conflicts within the Administration and there are reports of friction within the embassy in Saigon. There is an old Boston jingle that the Lowells talk only to the Cabots and the Cabots only to God. There are no Lowells in Saigon, and apart from any private communing the Ambassador, Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge, does not often talk to members of his staff. Relations with the South Vietnamese Government are said to be unprofitable."

PRETORIA**All Fairly Quiet on the Southern Front**

South African, Portuguese and Southern Rhodesian officials observe with much satisfaction the increasingly noticeable slowdown in the much advertised program to drive white power out of southern Africa. Last year the fire-breathing talk was proclaiming an all-out onslaught to begin early in 1964. In the event, no major action has been attempted, even in Angola, which was marked for the



Waite, London Daily Sketch

Ben Roth Agency

"Come along now, chaps—somebody has got to go to Cyprus."

first round. A number of the new African governments are having second and third thoughts about possible consequences. Dr. Kenneth Kaunda of Northern Rhodesia (scheduled for independence this summer) understands the economic dependence of his country on Mozambique and South Africa, and has been in conciliatory touch with Portuguese and South African representatives. The meeting of the Organization of African Unity held at Lagos, Nigeria, in the last week of February had been expected to announce the opening of the Big Push, but instead took so mild a line that it was bitterly denounced by Holden Roberto and the South African revolutionaries. Undoubtedly, one important motive for caution was knowledge of the powerful showing made in 1963 by South Africa. In spite of the global propaganda and boycott campaign its economic growth was more dynamic in 1963 than that of any other nation in the world.

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